

Hanover Green Meeting House
Hanover Green, Pennsylvania
Lancaster Co.

HABS No. Pa-26

HABS
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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. Pa-2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer
139 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

HANOVER GREEN MEETING HOUSE
HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA
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White men came west from Connecticut and north from old Lancaster County into the Wyoming Valley. They brought such household goods as could be transported on horses. There were no roads over which even the sturdy pioneer wagon could travel. They also brought intangible goods; their ideals of education and religion.

The loyalty of the Connecticut settlers to their God found concrete expression in the Forty Fort Meeting house as did that of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, and later, the Pennsylvania Germans, in three churches built in Hanover Township.

In 1774 or 1775 the Scotch-Irish built a log church in Hanover, probably the first in Luzerne County. About 1800 they began another. This was never finished, they began to move further west. Parts of this church existed in 1834.

The Pennsylvania Germans built the present Hanover Green Meeting House. Its corner stone was laid in 1825. In their turn these settlers slowly spread into the surrounding country and established new Meetings. This reduced the old congregation. By 1860 it could no longer support the church.

When the Hanover Green Meeting House was built, John Quincy Adams was president. Men travelled in coach or on horse back. Scranton did not exist. There were one thousand people in Wilkes-Barre.

The fence around the plot is recent. Originally the green sward which gave the Meeting House its name, extended without a break from the building to the road. About the old cemetery at the back of the building was a fence which kept out wandering animals. On the northeast stood forest pines. To them and in their shade horses were tied while men worshipped their God, or, sorrowing, buried their dead.

The front cemetery is modern.

The front double doors open on stone steps, those on the right side on one stone step cut by hand into a half circle. The original thumb latches are still on the doors.

The interior is well preserved. The high pulpit is gone but the hand carved sounding board remains. On the gallery front the carving is like that of the sounding board. On the south two stairways lead to the gallery which runs across the east, west and north sides of the building. Its seats are tall-backed, narrow and uncomfortable.

On the pew backs are book rests made from wide boards which must have been very thick as the rim holding the books in place is an integral part of the rack.

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Approved,

District Officer. Donald H. Anderson

Rec. Sept. 21 '36 H.W.